

Fact sheet: Home Improvements and Structural Alterations – HISA

Under the Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) program, administered by VHA's Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service, Veterans with service-connected disabilities or Veterans with nonservice-connected disabilities may receive assistance for any home improvement necessary for the continuation of treatment or for disability access to the home and essential lavatory and sanitary facilities. Some items for the home, such handrails and stair glides, may be available through Prosthetics without a HISA grant. A HISA grant is available to Veterans who have received a medical determination indicating that improvements and structural alterations are necessary or appropriate for the effective and economical treatment of his/her disability. A Veteran may receive a HISA grant and either a Special Home Adaptation (SHA) grant or a Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant. Veterans participating in Chapter 31 programs may be provided with additional assistance as needed to address their independent living needs.

How Do I Apply For an HISA Grant?

In order to receive a HISA grant, the Veteran must first have a prescription from a VA or fee-basis physician. This must include:

- Specific items required.
- The diagnosis with medical justification.
- The Veteran's name, address, SSN and phone number(s).

To apply, the Veteran must first provide:

- A completed VA Form 10-0103, VETERANS APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE In Acquiring Home Improvement and Structural Alterations. If a leased or rented property, it must include written permission from the owner.
- Quotes from at least 3* licensed (if required by state law) contractors, to include:
 - ✓ The contractors name, address, telephone and Federal tax ID number or social security number
 - ✓ The Veteran's name, address and telephone number.
 - ✓ Plans and drawings
 - ✓ An itemized list of estimated materials, cost and labor cost.
 - ✓ All permits required (it is the contractors responsibility to obtain these)
- A picture of the work site prior to construction

**However, if the Veteran is unable to obtain three bids, one bid may be sufficient as long as it is documented and accepted by HISA as a sole source.*

What Are the Limits on HISA grants?

The HISA program is available for both service-connected veterans and nonservice-connected veterans.

- Home improvement benefits up to \$4,100 may be provided to service-connected Veterans.
- Home improvement benefits up to \$1,200 may be provided to nonservice-connected Veterans.

What MAY HISA Pay For?

These are examples of what HISA MAY pay for:

- Allowing entrance or exit from veteran's home
- Improving access for use of essential lavatory and sanitary facilities
- Improving access to kitchen and bathroom counters
- Lowered Electrical outlets and switches
- Improving paths or driveways
- Improving plumbing/electrical work for dialysis patients

What May HISA NOT Pay For?

These are examples of what HISA MAY NOT pay for:

- Walkways to exterior buildings
- Widening of driveways (in excess of a 7ft x 6ft area)
- Spa, hot tub or Jacuzzi
- Exterior decking (in excess of 8ft x 8ft)

***For More Information, Call Toll-Free 1-800-827-1000
or Visit Our Web Site at <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/vrs.htm>***

